

The following Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application:

1.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A method of identifying two or more markers useful for diagnosing a disease, said method comprising:

for each gene of a collection of two or more genes, wherein said gene is expressed in blood and in a non-blood tissue of a subject not having said disease:

(a) using an oligonucleotide of predetermined sequence, detecting a presence, in RNA of blood samples which have not been fractionated into cell types from subjects having said disease, of RNA encoded by said gene, said oligonucleotide being specific only for RNA encoded by said gene, and/or for cDNA complementary to ~~said~~ RNA, encoded by said gene, in said samples;

(b) quantifying a level of ~~said~~ RNA encoded by said gene in said samples; and

(c) determining a difference between said level, and a quantified level of ~~control~~ RNA encoded by said gene in RNA of blood samples which have not been fractionated into cell types from control subjects, ~~said-control~~ RNA encoded by said gene having been detected in said samples from said control subjects, and said difference identifying said gene as a marker of said disease,

thereby identifying said two or more markers useful for diagnosing said disease.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A method of identifying two or more markers useful for diagnosing a disease, said method comprising:

for each gene of a collection of two or more genes, wherein said gene is expressed in blood and in a non-blood tissue of a subject not having said disease:

(a) producing amplification products from RNA of blood samples which have not been fractionated into cell types from subjects having said disease, using primers

specific only for RNA encoded by said gene, and/or for cDNA complementary to ~~said~~ RNA₁ encoded by said gene₁ in said sample;

(b) quantifying a level of said amplification products; and

(c) determining a difference between said level ~~of said amplification products~~, and a quantified level of control amplification products produced from control RNA, using primers specific only for ~~said~~ RNA encoded by said gene, and/or for cDNA complementary to ~~said~~ RNA₁ encoded by said gene₁ in RNA of blood samples which have not been fractionated into cell types from control subjects, ~~said control RNA having been detected in said samples from said control subjects~~, wherein said difference identifies said gene as a marker of said disease,

thereby identifying said two or more markers useful for diagnosing said disease.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 ~~any one of claims 17 and 57~~, wherein said detecting of ~~said~~ RNA encoded by said gene ~~of in~~ step (a) is effected by detecting cDNA and/or EST derived from ~~said~~ RNA encoded by said gene ~~of step (a)~~.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19 ~~any one of claims 19 and 58~~, wherein said producing of said amplification products ~~of in~~ step (a) is effected by producing amplification products from cDNA and/or EST derived from ~~said~~ RNA encoded by said gene ~~of step (a)~~.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 ~~any one of claims 17 and 57~~, further comprising quantifying ~~said control~~ a level of RNA encoded by said gene in said RNA of said blood samples from said control subjects, to thereby determine said quantified level of ~~said control~~ RNA encoded by said gene in RNA of said blood samples from said control subjects.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19 ~~any one of claims 19 and 58~~, further comprising quantifying a level of said control amplification products to thereby determine said quantified level of said control amplification products.

25–27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) The method claim 17 ~~any one of claims 17 and 57~~, wherein said quantifying of said level of ~~said~~ RNA encoded by said gene ~~of in~~ step (b) is effected by determining a quantity of ~~said~~ RNA encoded by said gene ~~of step (a)~~ in said RNA of said blood samples from said subjects not having said disease relative to a housekeeping gene.

29 (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 ~~any one of claims 17 and 57~~, wherein said quantified level of ~~said control~~ RNA encoded by said gene in RNA of said blood samples from said control subjects has been determined relative to a housekeeping gene.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19 ~~any one of claims 19 and 58~~, wherein said quantified level of ~~said control~~ amplification products ~~produced from said control RNA~~ has been determined relative to a housekeeping gene.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) The method of any one of claims 17 and 19 ~~17, 19, 57 and 58~~, wherein said control subjects and said subjects having said disease are human.

34. (Currently amended) The method of any one of claims 17 and 19 ~~17, 19, 57 and 58~~, wherein said control subjects do not have said disease.

35–37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19 ~~any one of claims 19 and 58~~, wherein said quantifying of said level of said amplification products ~~encoded by said gene of in~~ step (b) is effected by quantifying amplification products produced from cDNA and/or EST derived

from ~~said~~ RNA encoded by said gene ~~of step (a)~~.

39-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 ~~any one of claims 17 and 58~~, wherein said quantifying of said level of ~~said~~ RNA encoded by said gene ~~of in~~ step (b) is effected by quantifying a level of cDNA and/or EST derived from ~~said~~ RNA encoded by said gene ~~of step (a)~~.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently amended) The method of any one of claims 17 and 19 ~~17, 19, 57 and 58~~, wherein said disease is colorectal cancer.

44-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently amended) The method of any one of claims 17 and 19 ~~17, 19, 57 and 58~~, wherein said control subjects have said disease at a different stage than said subjects having said disease.

50-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19 ~~any one of claims 19 and 58~~, wherein said quantifying of said level of said amplification products ~~encoded by said gene of in~~ step (b) is effected by determining a quantity of said amplification products produced from said RNA of blood samples from said subjects having said disease relative to a housekeeping gene.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Canceled)

59. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims 17 and 19 ~~17, 19, 57 and 58~~, wherein said disease is diabetes.
60. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims 17 and 19 ~~17, 19, 57 and 58~~, wherein said disease is heart failure.
61. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims 17 and 19 ~~17, 19, 57 and 58~~, wherein said gene is predominantly expressed in said non-blood tissue.
62. (New) The method of claim 17 or 19, wherein said marker is a candidate marker.
63. (New) The method of claim 17 or 19, wherein said gene is non-cancer-associated.